

***Congressman Sestak Recognizes Sheriff Durante's Life of Service***

November 10, 2010

Norristown, Pa. – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined Montgomery County officials as well as family and friends of the late Sheriff John P. Durante to dedicate a plaque at the Montgomery County Courthouse honoring the public and private life of the man who served as the county's sheriff from 2000 until his untimely death last February. The Congressman spoke of the Sheriff's acclaimed work as a forensic investigator who was inducted into the Pennsylvania Police Hall of Fame in 2006 and received the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the Year award in 2009. In the attached picture from left to right are Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07); Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman; Deanna Durante (daughter of Sheriff Durante); Christina Visco (daughter of Sheriff Durante); Chief County Detective Oscar P. Vance; and Montgomery County Commissioner Bruce Castor.

"It is a great privilege to have met John and to now take part in commemorating his unwavering devotion to making Montgomery County a safer, better place to live," said Congressman Sestak. "From his record as a public servant and the countless stories of his private charitable work, it is clear that we would all benefit tremendously from having more people in public life like Sheriff Durante. I hope this plaque will represent only a small part of the efforts we all make to remember his service and follow his example."

The Congressman recalled getting to know the sheriff's selfless approach to public service

when Durante gave him a tour of the area devastated by the 8-alarm fire at the Riverwalk Millennium Apartment Complex in Conshohocken. He also mentioned Sheriff Durante going out of his way to offer helpful guidance regarding events throughout Montgomery County.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*